



LIBRARY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY THIRD LIBRARY APPRECIATION DAY

Libraries across the State will be open for limited service in the afternoon on February 3. Legislators from the West Virginia Senate and the House of Delegates will be honored guests of public library trustees and personnel. The timing is scheduled to precede the hearings of the West Virginia Library Commission's budget on February fourth. The state library agency is seeking funding at an average of 80¢ per capita as grants-in-aid for public library operation. A four million capital construction request for local buildings accompanies the operating proposal.

All trustees and Friends of Libraries should seize this opportunity to dispel the illusion that nobody cares about libraries. Come out and tell your legislator how it is!

Commission Chairman, Campbell Beall of Martinsburg, wants to assure those who plan to attend that this Sunday Special is not a tea party but an occasion for serious discussion and planning.

IDEAS FOR A DISPLAY

Over seventy companies have been sending samples of their publications for children during the past year to the Library Commission. The Book Express Office is prepared to supply several traveling exhibits. Write to the Field Consultant (Frances Jones) for information. Borrowing libraries would have to pay return shipping costs. Both public and college library requests will be welcomed with each display including materials for varied age groups--primary, intermediate, and teen age.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 21-28

Mrs. Arch A. Moore, Jr., has agreed to serve as Honorary State Chairman for National Library Week. Library Chairpersons for the event are Judy Rule of Cabell County Library and Sharon Stone of Beverly Hills Junior High in Huntington. The steering committee includes Lola McClure, Paul Wassum, Don Hansen, and Mrs. Cathy Appel.

Initial conference with Mrs. Moore is scheduled for February fourth. The National theme, "Grow with Books", is to be followed. New address for materials: Dept. NLW, Room 2001, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10010.

LIBRARY
CONSTRUCTION
BOOMS

All good things seem to come in three's with a trio of new buildings almost ready for occupancy. Board Chairman of Jackson County Libraries reports that new structures at Ripley and Ravenswood are ready and await only receipt of furniture. Target opening dates are March ninth. Mrs. Luella Dye of Bluefield assures us that with the installation of the carpeting this week, "Nature's Air-conditioned City" will install equipment in its new library. The equipment came early and had to be placed in storage. The new structure is named Craft Memorial Library in honor of Jack Craft, author of "Wheels on the Mountains".

Several building campaigns have reached their goals with Parkersburg taking the honors in the total amount raised. Board Chairman, Don Northrup, and Library Director, Dorothy Muse, proudly report that the drive exceeded the goal by 28%, raising a total of \$740,000. Ketchum, Incorporated, a professional fund raising outfit from Pittsburgh, managed the extravaganza. The Mid Ohio Valley's industrial muscle came through with gifts of \$200,000 from O. E. Ames (Bernard McDonouth's local firm); Borg Warner, \$50,000; the Benedum Foundation, a \$50,000 Challenge Grant; and Mr. and Mrs. Karl Summers (who operate a mail order photo firm) contributed \$100,000 to make possible a Community Meeting Room. Robert Bailey, the architect, is revising plans for the 30,000 square foot structure.

Raleigh County Library at Beckley launched a \$125,000, ninety day campaign with 20 families each giving \$5,000. Much of the success of the drive was due to the skill of Carroll Simpkins, former Chairman of Raleigh Friends. Mrs. Mary Louise Graham reports the County Friends drive exceeded its goal by \$75,000 with an avalanche of smaller gifts from industry, clubs, lodges, and church groups.

Third in the campaign movement is New Martinsville with Board Chairman David Chadwick ably assisted by Mayor Gill Frazee. Enthusiasm from their annual fund drive for operation has assured the success of a campaign for \$140,000 building fund (to make possible a \$350,000 building total). George Clements, publicity advisor, has successfully used Library Stamps and a Radio-thon to guarantee widespread interest.

Russell Foster from Alpha in Spencer indicates that plans are well in hand for a \$400,000 structure affording 10,000 square feet for a Roane County and Regional headquarters building.

CURRENT
PROJECTS

Pleasants County Library at St. Marys has awarded a contract for \$139,000 structure to Grimm Construction Company of Vienna. The contract, which calls for completion within 180 days, will provide a brick structure facing on the Ohio River. Special features of the new building are study rooms and audiovisual service.

Two remodeling programs are well underway. In Mannington, the library has moved to the former Monongahela Power Company building and Revenue Sharing has just been received to assist with the program. In Madison, the Boone County Library is letting contracts for \$30,000 to renovate the main floor and mezzanine for library use. A campaign to raise \$50,000 to assure meeting fire safety regulations and provide multi-purpose rooms on the top floor and an

auditorium in the basement is just getting underway.

INSTANT
LIBRARIES
BETSY EATON

The newest Instant Library was dedicated in Fort Gay by Ken Hechler on January 19th. Mrs. Ruth Britt, trained by Cabell County Library staff, will serve the 5,000 residents in the Fort Gay area. Blacksville is aiming for a March first grand opening with two librarians and 8,000 new volumes. The Monongalia County Court there gave \$50,000 to the project, \$20,000 specifically for materials.

Paden City, Hamlin, and Rainelle compete to be the sixth Instant Library building to open in the year since the first "Instant" was dedicated in Man. Projects on the drawing boards in Gassaway, Chester, and Sophia bring the total number of Instant Library buildings to eleven. Circulation figures at the Parkersburg South, Webster Springs, and Buffalo Creek Memorial Libraries average 1,600 volumes a month; this is surely evidence of success.

RECOGNITION
FOR
SPECIAL SERVICE

A climax of the Second Small Library Management Institute at Cacapon State Park, November 15, was the presentation of Public Library Development Awards to the following: Mr. Sol Cohen and Mr. Nelson Clarke from Martinsburg; Mrs. Helen Link of Shepherdstown; Mrs. Marian Kirkpatrick of Berkeley Springs. From the Potomac Valley area, recognition went to Mrs. C. B. Allen of Moorefield and Mr. Edwin Jordan of Keyser.

OHIO COUNTY
NEWS

The Civitan Citation Award given for the best annual Downtown Improvement went to Thomas A. E. Stephan, Chairman of the County Library Board in Wheeling. Additional good news came at the end of the year for the State's oldest public library with Circuit Court Judge Callie Tsapsis ruling that the Library Board owned the original building. The County Board of Education had challenged the validity of Ohio County's Special Law passed in 1933.

"LIBRARY MATERIALS
FOR SCHOOLS IN
APPALACHIA"

The West Virginia University Library in Morgantown has recently published a list of materials which would be invaluable for librarians building their collections. There are special lists for elementary, junior high, adult-fiction and nonfiction, recordings and films.

Editor is George Bennett. Cost is \$2.00. The annotations and prices were prepared by the students of Olive Lewis and Victorine Louistall.

"PROFILES OF
WEST VIRGINIA
ARTISTS AND
CRAFTSMEN'S GUILD"

Public libraries are being offered a special price of \$2.25 for this illustrated directory of our State's own craftsmen. This will be an invaluable guide for the public library looking for display materials. Write the Department of Commerce at the State Capitol.

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